

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for removing ink-accepting areas from a printing master by laser ablation, characterized in that the printing master comprises a substrate which comprises a support and a base layer, wherein the base layer contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide.
2. A method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate by
 - (a) providing a substrate comprising a support and a base layer which contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide;
 - (b) applying one or more layer(s) on the base layer, thereby obtaining an imaging material;
 - (c) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposure of the imaging material to heat or light and optionally processing the imaging material;
 - (d) printing;
 - (e) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by laser ablation; and
 - (f) repeating steps (a) through (d).
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the imaging material contains an image-recording layer which comprises hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles or an aryldiazosulfonate polymer.
4. The method according to claim 2 wherein during step (e) ablation debris and/or fumes are removed by a vacuum device.
5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is an infrared laser.
6. The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is a pulsed laser.
7. The method according to claim 2 wherein the metal is Ti, Zr, Hf, or a mixture thereof.
8. The method according to claim 2 wherein the base layer further comprises a hydroxide of the metal.

9. The method according to claim 2 wherein the support is a plastic support, an aluminum support, or a laminate of a plastic and an aluminum support.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the aluminum support is a grained and anodized aluminum support.

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